

File

MEMORANDUM

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

April 21, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Mr. Kissinger showed Moscow 1677 to the President at approximately 1305 hours, 21 April. The President, in reading the message, directed:

- a. That the naval task force off the east coast of Korea be retained in the Sea of Japan for a period not less than 72 hours from this time.
- b. That the task force sail somewhat north of the projected contingency launch point.
- c. That the reply to the Soviets be consistent with the following general line: "The Soviets are communicating with the wrong party. The President has stated that he will take whatever action is necessary to protect our reconnaissance aircraft. If the Soviets wish to be helpful, they should communicate with the North Koreans on this issue."

The information in paras. a and b was furnished to Col. Pursley, Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense, who was called away from his luncheon at 1310 hours. The information in paras. a, b, and c was furnished to Mr. John Walsh, Acting Executive Secretary of the Department of State, at 1320 hours. Both Pursley and Walsh acknowledged this information. Additionally, Captain Robinson departed this office for General Wheeler's office to insure that the President's instructions were clearly understood at the Joint Chiefs of Staff level.

DOS, NAVY,  
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Alexander Haig

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS  
APPLY